



SD ANIMAL INDUSTRY BOARD

411 South Fort Street
Pierre, South Dakota 57501-4503
Phone: (605) 773-3321
Fax: (605) 773-5459

For Release
July 27, 2005

South Dakota Animal Industry Board
Contact: Sam Holland, DVM, State Veterinarian
(605) 773-3321

West Nile Virus resulted in the death of a Spink County horse late last week. The yearling horse was not vaccinated against the disease. This is the first confirmed case of Equine West Nile Virus in South Dakota this year. The disease was confirmed in 674 South Dakota horses in 2002, 73 in 2003, and 5 in 2004.

West Nile Virus primarily affects horses, certain birds and humans. The virus has been identified in a large variety of animals, with other species seldom showing any signs of disease.

It is extremely important that horses be vaccinated to prevent illness and death loss. The vaccination is available through veterinarians and effective protection takes 6 weeks for horses being vaccinated for the first time and 3 weeks for those horses receiving a booster vaccination.

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